



Colonial Beach
BAPTIST CHURCH
A Lighthouse for God

Cross Shadows

*"If someone has committed a crime worthy of death
and is executed and then hanged on a tree,
the body must never remain on the tree overnight.
You must bury the body that same day,
for anyone hanging on a tree is cursed of God."
(Deuteronomy 21:22-23 NLT)*

Reread this ancient command thoughtfully and prayerfully . . . and see shadows of Calvary. In this Hebrew law is a preview of Love. Centuries later, a high priest rudely demanded that My Son answer spurious charges hurled against him. On the verge of slaughter, Jesus remained silent. When the high priest misused My name to pressure him to reveal whether he was My Son, Jesus replied, "Yes, I am. And what's more, in the future the world will see Me enthroned at God's right hand and returning triumphantly on the clouds of heaven." Horrified, the high priest tore his robe and ruled Jesus had committed blasphemy, a capital crime. The Sanhedrin returned a guilty verdict and innocent Jesus was deemed worthy of the death penalty. The flawless Lamb was sacrificed so you and I could be friends. His death in your place commends him as worthy of the highest devotion.

When My dear Son was crucified, punctilious Jews didn't want to see his body left on the cross the next day, since that was the Passover. So they requested that the Roman governor take the body down. The day of Jesus' vicarious death was more critical than their "special sabbath." That dark day My obedient Son was wounded for humanity's rebellion, flogged mercilessly so people could find mercy in relationship with Me, and hurt to the depths of his soul so the spiritually sick could get well.

Jesus was mocked, so you could inherit a mansion. He was deserted, so you could delight in the pleasure of My company. He was spat upon, so you could be shielded from the effects of sin. He was bruised, so you could be blessed. He shouldered a heavy cross, so you could wear a crown. He was crucified, so you could be changed. He experienced agony, so you could experience ecstasy. He went to hell for awhile, so you could go to heaven forever. Hanging on a tree on Skull Hill, Jesus took upon himself the insult for your wrongdoing. Others may curse the Savior, but he has transformed your life, so show your love by blessing him. Jesus offers you life's greatest challenge -- self-denial, cross bearing, and walking in his footsteps. To the world, this appears to be suicide . . . in reality, it's the only path to life.



Whispers from Eternity

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